GENEROSITY RESULTS IN NEW PUBLIC ACCESS TO UTAH LAKE

The generosity of two landowners and the cooperation of several state and Utah County agencies will soon result in increased public access to Utah Lake. The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has been conducting boundary negotiations with landowners for several years. As result of those negotiations two adjoining landowners, Jeff Nielsen and Kerry Chipman, have agreed to donate a ten foot wide strip of land along their common boundary for a 20 foot wide public access road to the lakeshore. Additionally, Chipman donated a one acre parcel of land for a parking lot.

State agencies have banded together to complete the project and work will begin Saturday, January 20, 2001. The project is located about nine miles north of Elberta on the southwest side of Utah Lake.

"We're excited about the development because public access in the area has been difficult for many years," explained Wasatch Front Area Manger Dick Buehler. "Until now this portion of the lakeshore has been accessible only from the water this will be the only public access point along that portion of the lake.

"Not only have the landowners been very generous, but it's exciting to see so many state and agencies join with the county to improve the site," added Buehler.

The project encompasses the construction of a 3,000 foot long gravel road, parking lot and fencing. Division of Wildlife Resources is using Habitat Funds to pay for some materials. Construction equipment and personnel will be provided by the Utah National Guard, gravel for the road and lot has been purchased from School and Institutional Trust Lands, and the Utah County Surveyor has marked the location of the road and parking lot.

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